

Amendments To the Abstract:

In the English translation document, please add the section heading at page 14 line 1, as follows:

--ABSTRACT--

In the English translation document, please add the paragraph at page 14 line 1, after the newly added ABSTRACT section heading, as follows:

The invention relates to a method for monitoring a pipeline in order to detect the slow reduction of the free inner cross- section by means of the position of a control valve in the pipeline. When the flow rate is essentially constant, a first position is determined and stored at a first moment. According to at least one second position of the control valve, determined at a second, subsequent moment, the point at which the position of the valve exceeds a pre-determinable threshold value for a valve opening is determined, and optionally a signal is emitted to indicate that the threshold value has been exceeded and/or the time at which it was exceeded. As a result, suitable maintenance measures can be introduced, before faults occur in the process system.